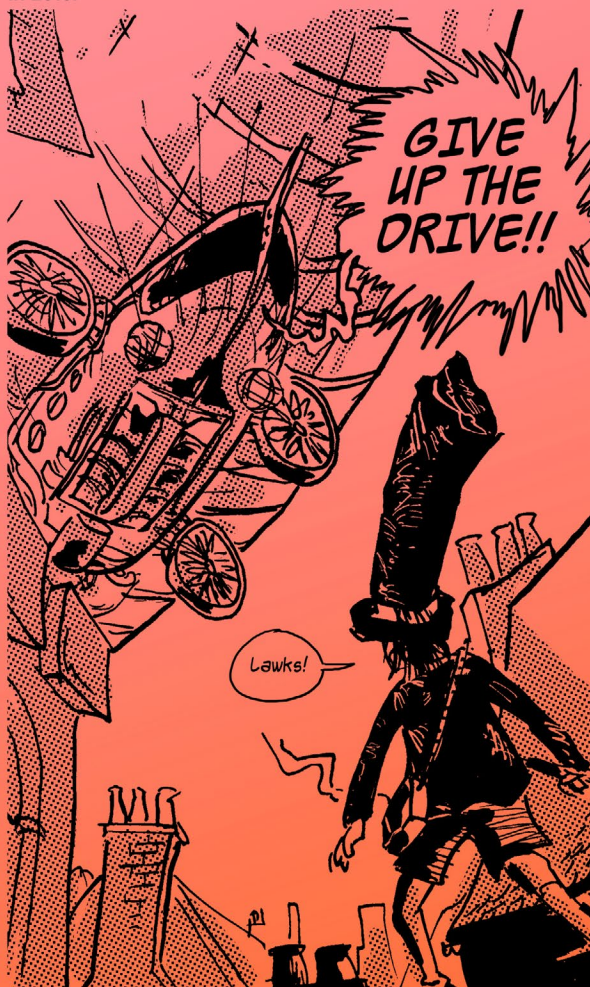


THE CHIMBLEY SWEEP #1: THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE CURIOUS CASE.

20 pages. Crowquill nib and ink on bristol.

Originally created for the SCAD Sequential Arts curriculum in 2010.



IRIS JAY ARCHIVE EDITION.

#5. April 2023.

Made possible by my indomitable Patreon supporters.
patreon.com/irisjay

NOTES FROM 2023

(or, "Why Don't You Talk About Chimbley Anymore?")

Whenever I tell people it comes off as funny at first, like revealing an embarrassing secret from high school. "Oh, yeah, I was a big name in the Original Character Tournament scene on 2000s Deviant Art. Remember OCTs? ...No? Hold on, let me explain..." But by the time I'm done giving my shopworn synopsis of who The Chimbley Sweep is, why I stopped drawing him, and his strange, undying fan following, my audience's amusement inevitably curdles into confusion and faint horror. Maybe it's the most Decemberists-ass way this whole fiasco could've shaken out, but for the last decade I've been haunted by the restless ghost of a Victorian orphan. Perhaps giving you this collection, offering up every last scrap of his earthly remains I still possess, will placate his troubled spirit and convince him to leave me in peace. Somehow, though, I doubt it.

An Original Character Tournament, or OCT, is a cross between a fan art exchange circle and a shonen manga fight tournament arc. As an artist, you would submit a character to compete in the competition-- either one of your existing OCs, or a new one you create for the event. The tournament organizers would then whittle down the submission pool to 16 (or 32, or 48 or whatever) contestants, whom they'd then slot into a March Madness-style tournament bracket of fights. In each "fight", you would create art of your character and your opponent's character meeting and fighting, with your character gaining the upper hand. Your opponent, meanwhile, would do the same, but with *their* character winning. Fight entries could be art, comics, prose, even animation-- whatever you could spare the time and effort to do. Once both you and your opponent complete your art pieces, the OCT's panel of judges-- or the entire tournament's readerbase, depending on the competition-- would decide which of your two entries was the winner. If you win, your entry becomes "canon" in the OCT's overarching storyline, and you move on to the next round of fights. If you lose, you're out of the running. The whole point of OCTs was to provide an open-call showcase for up-and-coming talent on DA, and to help novice artists hone their skills in a competitive environment-- iron sharpening iron.

I decided to toss my hat in the OCT ring back in 2007, when I was younger, brasher, and had a hell of a lot more time on my hands. Craving

attention and itching to prove myself, I set my sights on 'Endzone', an OCT run by DA user Endling set in the world of his comic project 'Ever After'. (A comic that dared to ask: What if a bunch of fairy tale characters lived in an insane asylum and had fucked up murder powers? For those of you who weren't there, 2000s Deviant Art really was just... *like that*.) Endzone was one of the first OCTs, and it felt like a Major Event due to Endling's popularity at the time. Competition would be tight, so I wanted to create a character who'd really stick out from the rest of the competition. I was also *severely* in my twee indie rock phase at the time, so entering a destitute, chain-smoking street urchin named after a Decemberists song seemed like a fantastic idea. Being a sickly little kid, he wouldn't really be able to *fight*, per se... but I could use each round as an excuse to completely tear down and parody my opponents' OCs, making them look irrational and ridiculous while Chimbley dodged their attacks.

Surprisingly, this tactic worked! To a point. Chimbley got all the way to the quarter-finals, where I got trounced by a really impressive piece of Adobe Flash animation by DA user Unknown-Person. (Who apparently works as a professional animator these days! How rad is that? OCTs DO sharpen your skills, kids.) A year later in 2008, I was invited to 'Law of Talos', another OCT run by some of the folks who participated in 'Endzone'-- kind of a bigger, more elaborate spiritual sequel. Again, Chimbley ridiculed his way to the quarter-finals, where I again got beaten by another, even cooler Unknown-Person animated short. (My entry was a nine-minute live action film featuring myself and some college buddies dressed up as Chimbley, U-P's character Karl and other characters. At the time, I was astonished I lost! Watching the film nowadays, though... yeah, U-P definitely earned that win. Oof.) Over the course of these two OCTs, Chimbley gained a cult following, and the comments and notes poured into my DA account's inbox.

And that's when things started to get a little weird.

I hadn't been on the internet for very long back then, and the term "parasocial relationship" was a long way from anyone's lips at the time. Fans started to get really, weirdly *possessive* of Chimbley, and they were so excited to tell me

exactly what they would do with him. (Give him a hug! Give him a kiss! Legally adopt him! Take a... bath... with him. Kidnap him. Get naked with him. Hold his head underwater until he stops moving. Have a child with him. Have a litter of puppies with him and your dog OC. There were stranger and nastier comments that I won't go into here, for your sake and mine.) As someone who was new to internet celebrity-- and who had a really uncomfortable and strained relationship with sexuality at the time-- all of this weird, intense and occasionally stomach-turning attention began to wear away at me. In addition, I felt uncomfortable with shitting on the hard creative work of others to get ahead in OCTs. You can get famous for being a rude asshole (especially on the internet in 2008), but you can't stay famous, and I didn't want my career to be defined by that kind of behavior.

Chimbley was still my "most marketable IP", though, so I did a short 21-page standalone comic starring him for Advanced Manga and Japanese Storytelling class in my junior year at SCAD. I figured, hey, if I give him a fresh start, totally separate from the OCT scene, maybe that would solve a bunch of problems! But it didn't stop the creepers from calling, and it didn't stop Chimbley's popularity from eclipsing the rest of my creative output. (Also, some real, actual Freemasons talked shit at me about it at a comic convention, and like, I don't need that kind of heat in my life.) In 2013, thoroughly over the whole affair and eager to move on with my life, I decided (maybe a little hastily, in retrospect) to deactivate my Deviant Art gallery and wipe all the art stored on it, including the original Chimbley Sweep fight comics.

Since then, I've started several new webcomics, I've transed the *hell* out of my gender, and I've cultivated a readerbase full of kind and respectful people who, as far as I'm aware, would not murder a child for sexual gratification. (I'm way more of a weird horny fucker nowadays myself, but like, I still gotta draw a line somewhere.) Chimbley was a bizarre footnote my old life, and my old life is over now, washed away by the endless tides of time. Right?

Wrong.

Over the course of the 2010s I gradually became aware that the Chimbley fans I had left behind hadn't *stopped* liking him. People roleplayed him on Tumblr askblogs, they made fan art and fanfiction of him, and they would occasionally squirm out of the woodwork to ask me when he'd

make his triumphant return. From 2014 to 2019, I could reliably count on getting asked about him at every convention I attended. I even got emails from people who wanted me to *sell* him to them, including an actual chimney cleaning company (who were... cool with child labor, I guess) and a young aspiring author who insisted the novel they were writing could *ONLY* work with Chimbley as the lead character, and not just any random filthy Victorian child with the serial numbers filed off. Most recently, the Law Of Talos OCT has regained popularity on TikTok of all places, with ersatz-nostalgic Zoomers scraping the darkest corners of the internet to piece together a record of comics and art that nobody expected anyone would want to read nearly fifteen years later. There are Chimbley Sweep fans still out there. He is still a phenomenon. I don't know why and I'm not sure I ever will.

Collected in this Archive Edition are the previously mentioned stand-alone 21-page Chimbley Sweep one-shot, plus the five-page proof-of-concept I also did for Manga and Japanese Storytelling Class and an assortment of sketches and ephemera. I also included Chimbley's introduction comic and second and third fights from 'Law Of Talos'. These are the *only* Chimbley Sweep OCT comics I've been able to find in my archives. The rest have, regrettably or maybe mercifully, been lost to time.

Why don't I talk about Chimbley anymore? There's all the weird-ass old baggage I just unloaded on you, sure, but also for a much simpler answer: He reminds me of who I used to pretend I used to be, and I'm not really nuts about that person. I transitioned out of a desire to stop being that person. Revisiting him for this Archive Edition was ultimately bittersweet-- I'm still proud of the one-shot and some of the art I did featuring him, but I'm also ultimately glad I've grown past him.

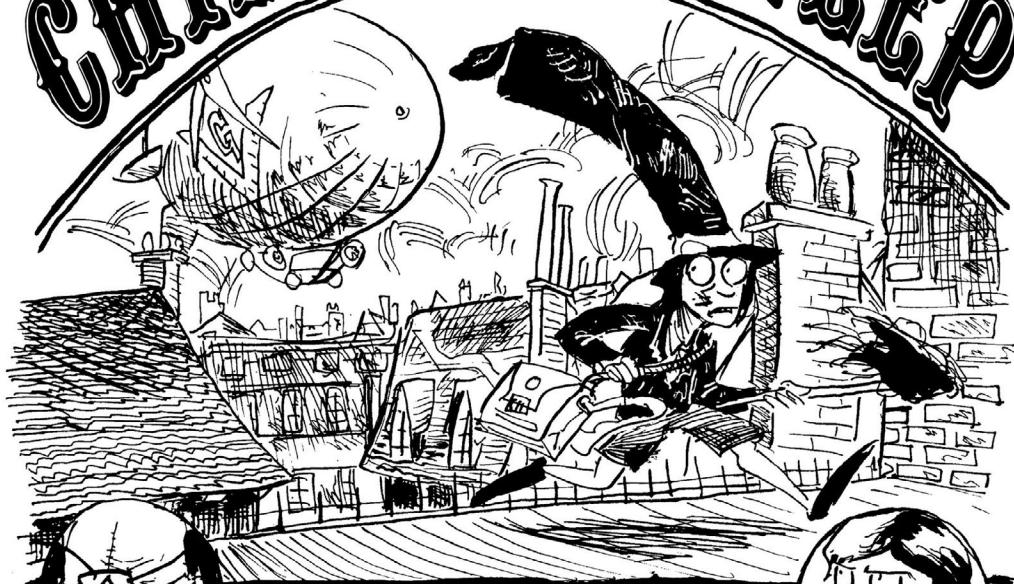
All that said, if you're still a fan of his, I'm glad he's still bringing you joy on this bitch of an earth. And hey, maybe I'll bring him back someday, if some rich weirdo decides to start an OCT that pays its artists enough to justify making a hole in my schedule. (Or maybe I could do sponsorships? Cover Chimbley's outfit in logos like a little Nascar driver?) Until then, I hope he inspires you to make your own OCs, to make amazing new work alongside other young artists, and most importantly, to stop asking me about him.

-IJ

ACTION! INTRIGUE! SUSPENSE! STEAM-POWERED THINGS!



THE CHIMBLEY SWEEP

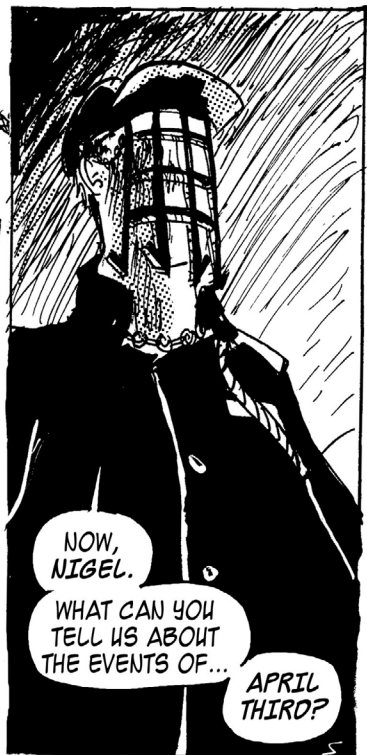
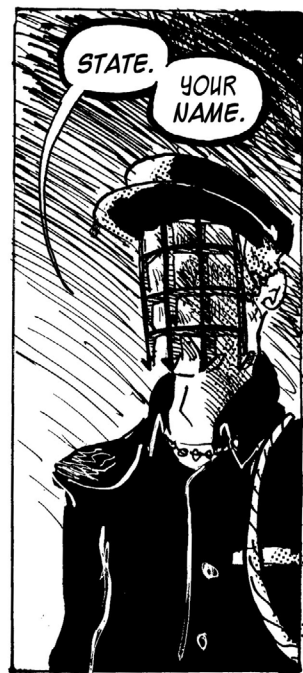
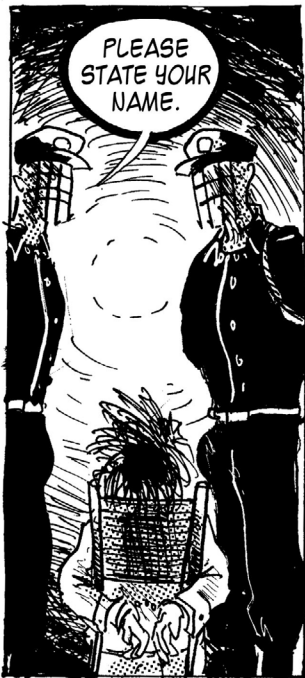


— ISSUE THE FIRST: —
**The Curious Case of
the Curious Case.**

Being a **THRILLING ACCOUNT** of a
street urchin's **PERILOUS ESCAPE**
FROM A MOST SINISTER
SECRET SOCIETY.

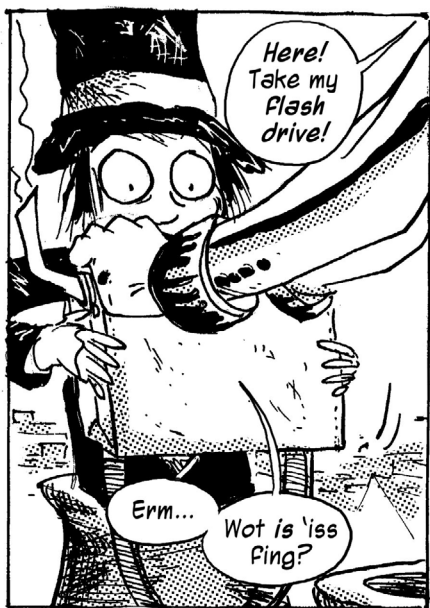
A "Picto-Narrative"
written & drafted
by the illustrious

Mr. IAN JAY,
FABULIST EXTRAORDINAIRE.

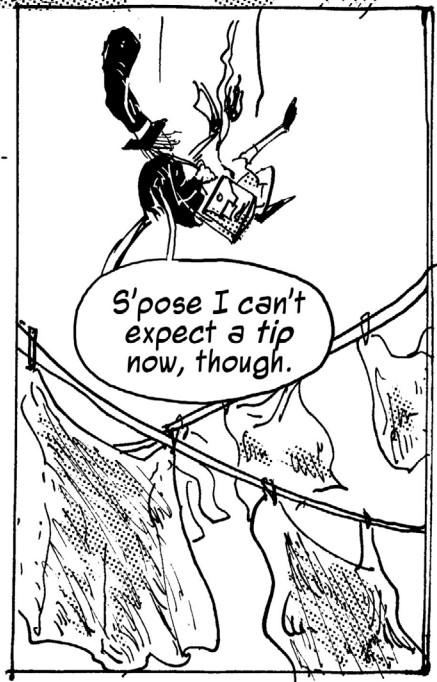


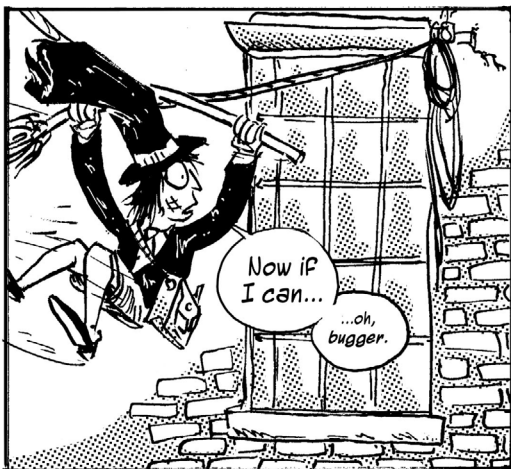
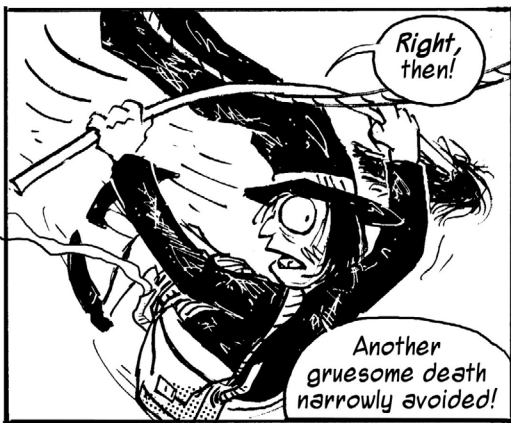
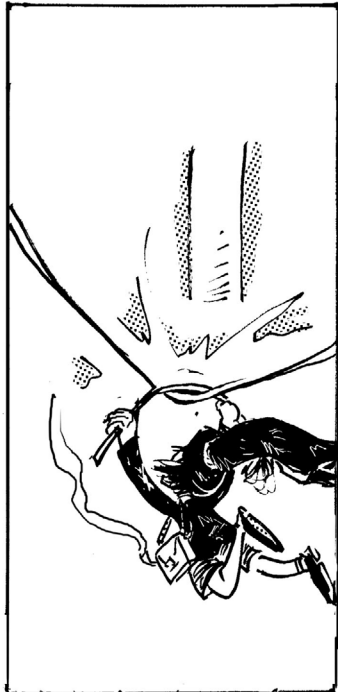
APRIL THIRD
sometime in the
Victorian era





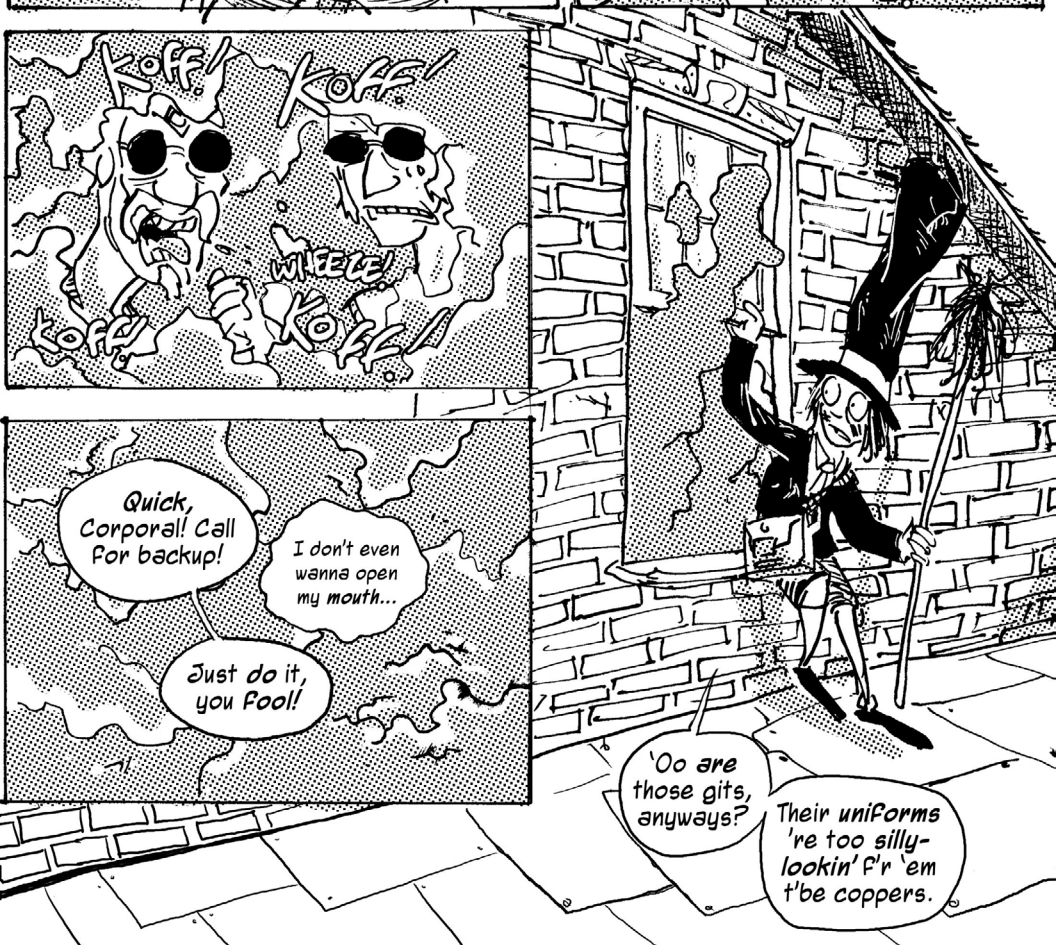
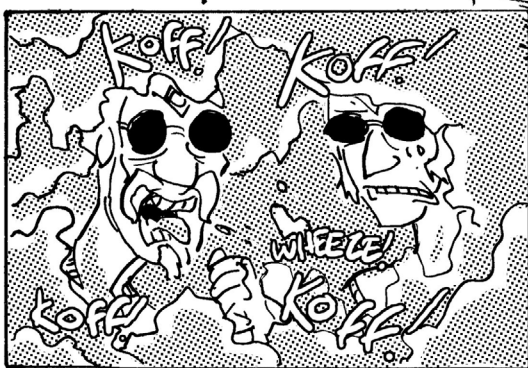






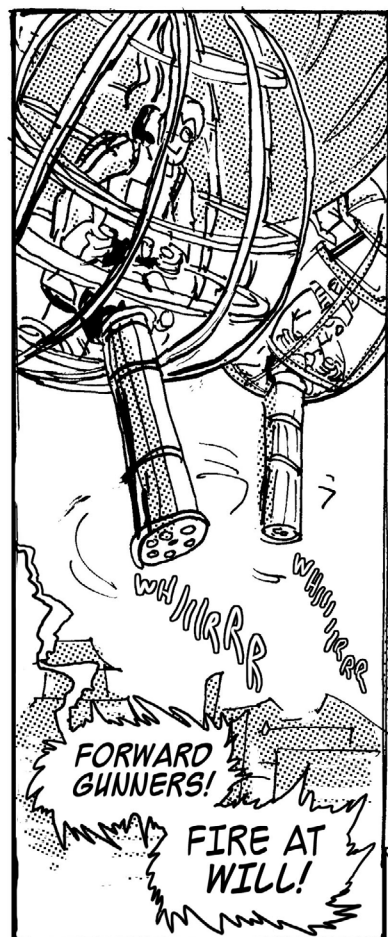


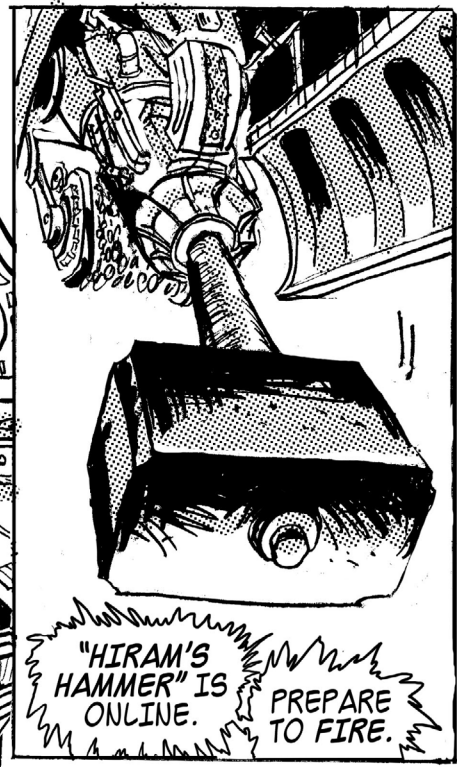
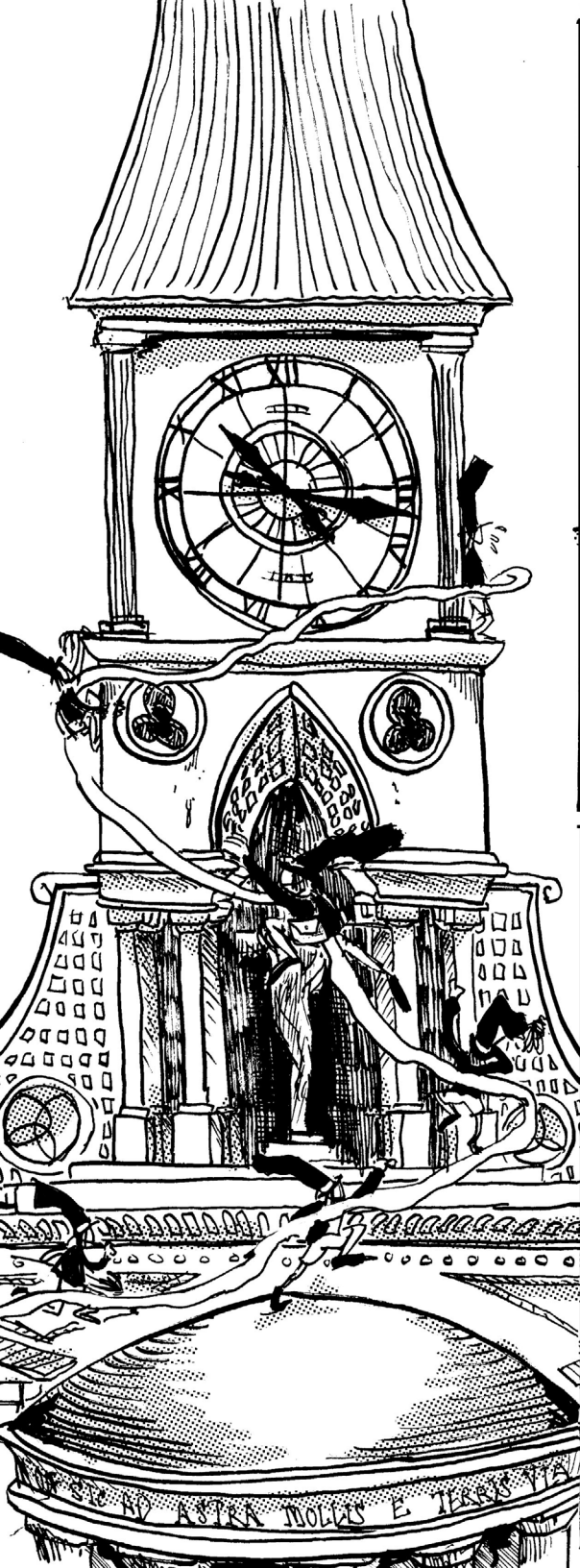


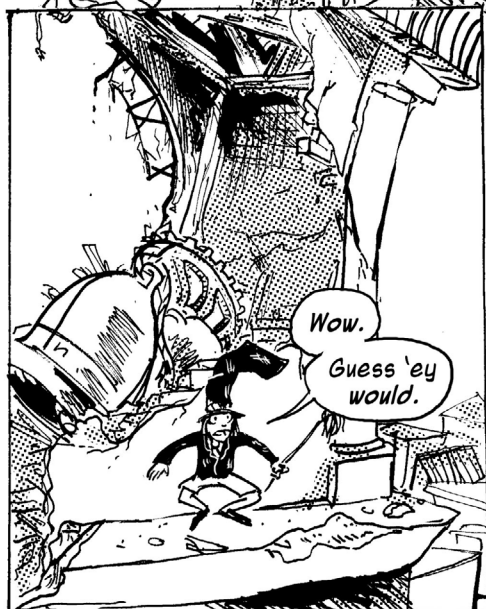
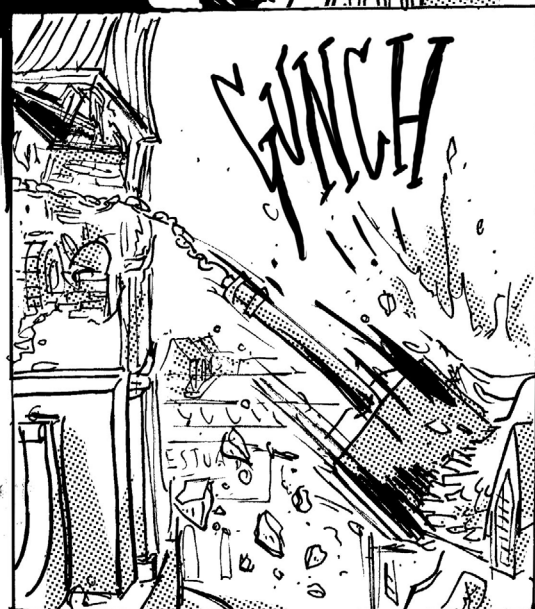


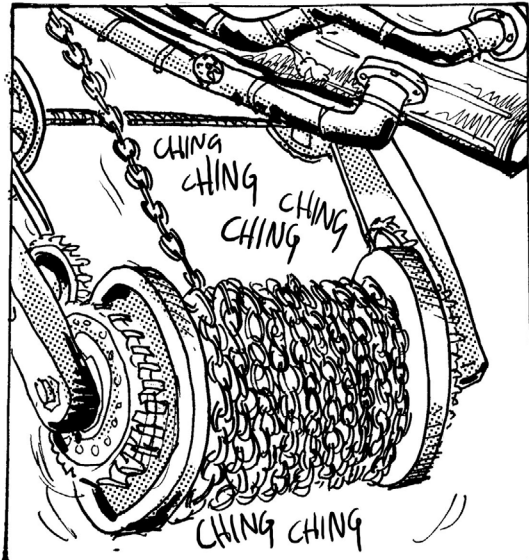
'Oo are those gits, anyways?

Their uniForms 're too silly-lookin' f'r 'em t'be coppers.















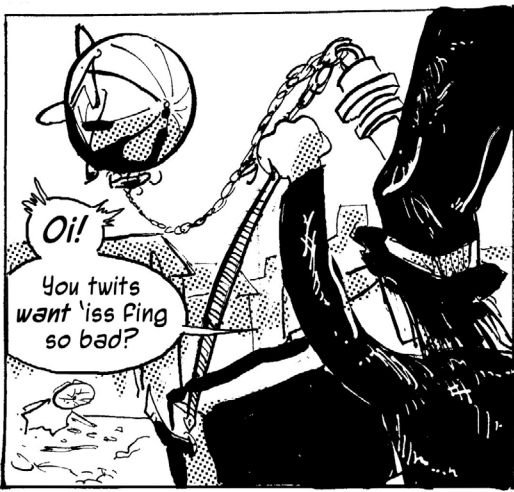
MEANWHILE,
THE NEXT
COUNTY OVER.





Don't shake that thing, or it'll explode!

Good luck running halfway across the city with it!

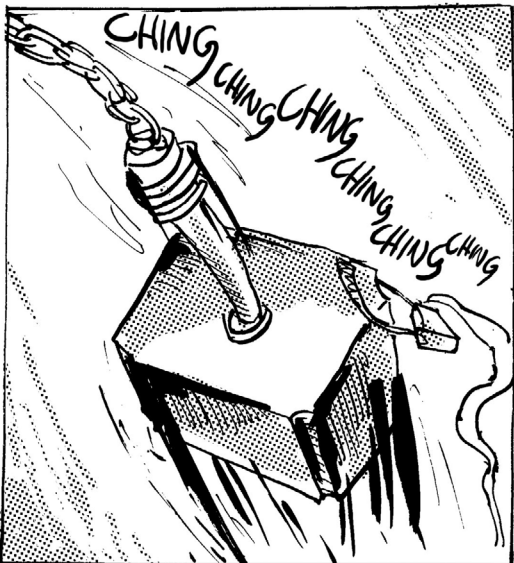


Oi!
You twits want 'iss fmg so bad?



Well, take it, then!

No need to thank me!



CHING CHING CHING
CHING CHING CHING



CRUNCH



boom.

...So if all 'iss is
about blowin' up 'at
airship and causin'
massive property
damage...

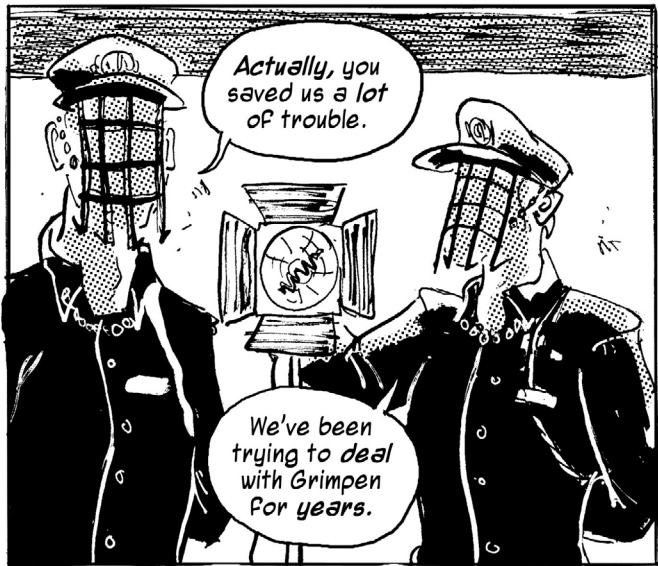
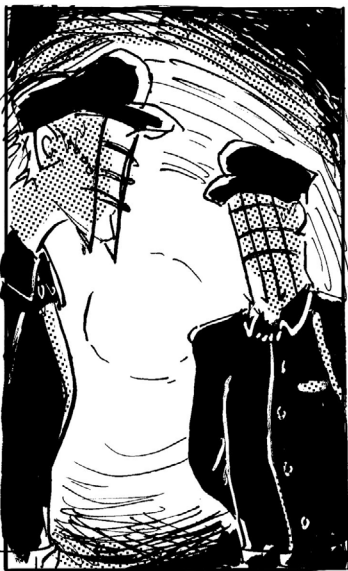
well...

I was just
tryin' t'save my
own skin, is all.

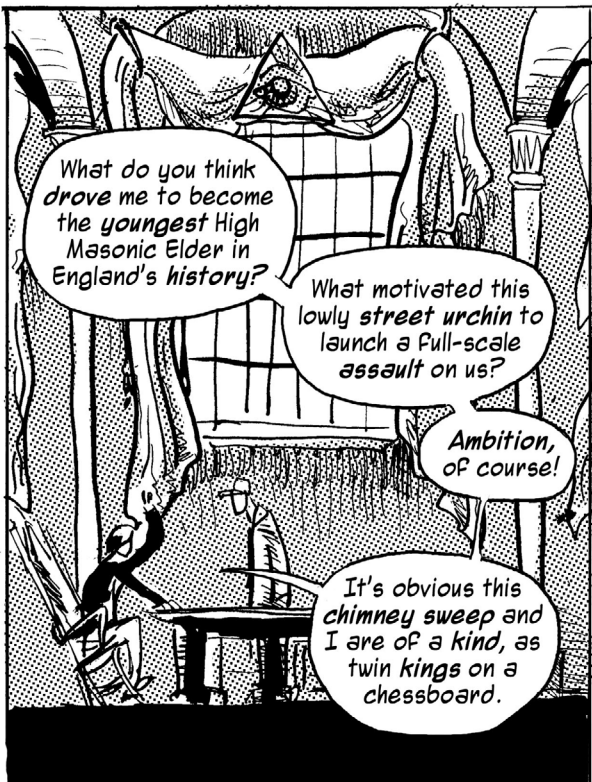
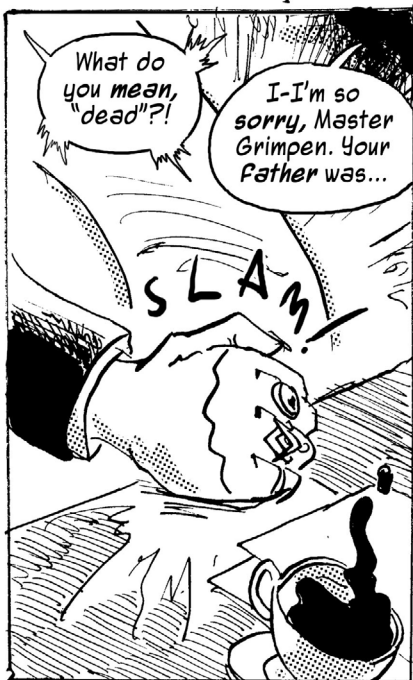
I don't 'ave
anyone lookin'
out f'r me. I've
always 'ad to
fight all my own
battles.

'At's life,
I s'pose.

Anyways. Can't I
just *promise* not
to do it again?



MEANWHILE, HOWEVER,
IN MITRE SQUARE
current Masonic headquarters



In Our

NEXT ISSUE

MORE EXCITING ADVENTURES, INCLUDING
A MAD (as in "rather
perturbed") **SCIENTIST!**
DABBLINGS *in the* **OCCULT!**

And, for the FIRST TIME IN HISTORY,
THE REALLY,
DEFINITELY,
ABSOLUTELY TRUE
IDENTITY OF JACK
THE RIPPER!

As Well As The **THRILLING CHASES** *And WITTY*
JAPES *That You Can Expect From The Name*
"IAN JAY"

All This And More Shall Be
Found Within Issue Two Of
.....**THE**.....
CHIMBLEY
SWEEP

ARRIVING EVERYWHERE IN 2011
AVAILABLE FROM IAN JAY'S SUPERB PICTO-NARRATIVES, LLC.

(...Yeah, this never happened.)



NON SIC AD ASTRA
MOLLIS E TERRIS VIA.

IAN JAY super comix

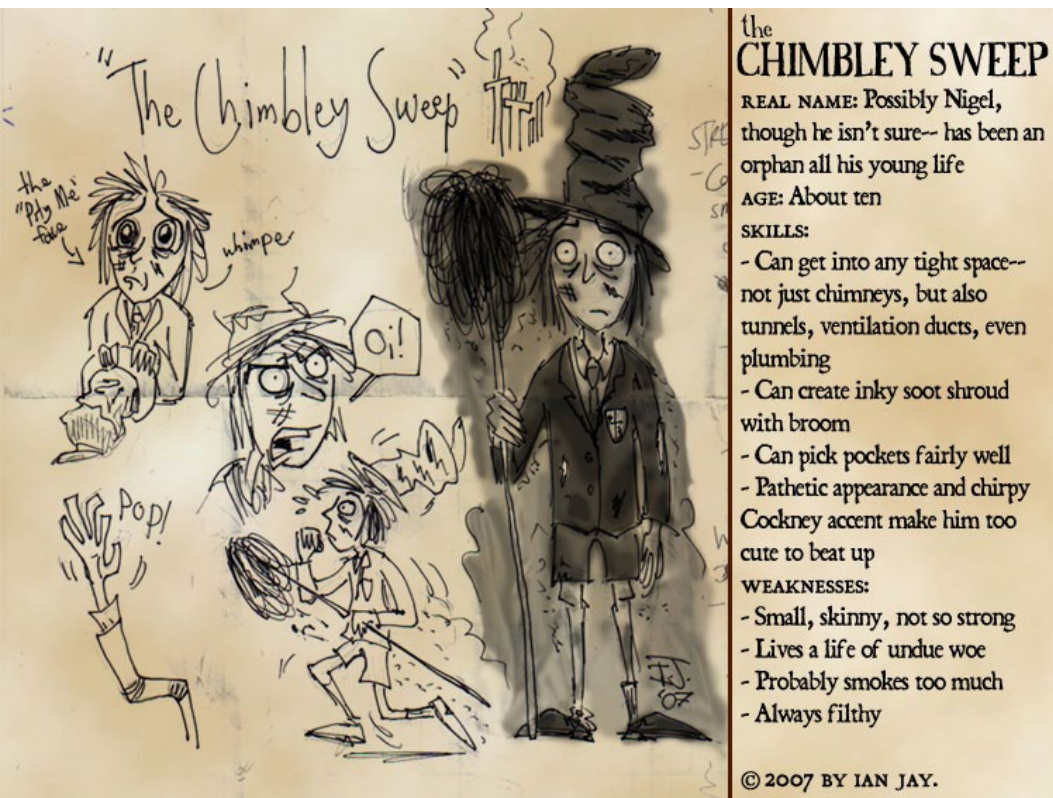
Copyright 2010 by
Ian Jay. All rights
reserved.

the CHIMBLEY
SWEEP
A COMIC BY IAN JAY.



EXTRAS

Previous page: Color promotional image for the Chimbley Sweep one-shot.



Above: Chimbley's original reference sheet, submitted to 'Endzone' all the way back in 2007. His hat grew a little every time I drew him.

Chimbley's introduction comic to 'Law of Talos'-- sort of a prologue to explain how he got embroiled in the contest. OCT contestants would do these as a method of announcing and promoting their participation.



Someone's
at the door.

'Elo, guv'nor!
Sweep yer
chimbley?

Odd! I'm
not expecting
anybody.

Er...
Well...

Sure.
Why not.

But please
be quick.

...Lawks,
look at 'is!

Way I sees
it, guv, I can
eilver be
quick or be
thorough.

Who is
he?

No idea.
Just ignore
him.

Anyways...

Behold,
Clarence!

My latest
and greatest
mechanical
masterwork!

An' wif build-
up like 'is, I'd
definitely go
fer thorough.

A device capable of
achieving what men
have only dreamt of
since time immemorial!

Anything you
desire! Anything
you crave!

I GIVE YOU...
THE
**WISHING
MACHINE!!**

TREMBLE BEFORE
ITS MIGHT!

Hm.

Tell me, why did
you choose such
an... eccentric
design for it?

I don't know.
It just seemed
right somehow.

So it grants wishes, then? Is this some kind of joke?

Remember my bald spot, Clarence?

NOT ANYMORE, YOU DON'T!

My God...

So flowing!
So luxuriant!

But... how?
Can I have perfect hair?

Well, firstly, it really does give you what-ever you wish for!

And secondly, no, you can't!

What? Damn!
Why not?

There's only one wish left in the machine.

I want to use it to save our broken city.

So what? You're just going to magic the economy better?

Well, no. It only grants you wishes that directly benefit you.

Besides the hair, I used one wish on a new set of wrenches, three on sandwiches, and four on orgies.

Insane orgies.

But then my nephew had the most brilliant idea!

uh okay well

like me and my friends do these backyard wrestling matches during the summer

and we fight for hours and other kids come and watch

so like what if you did a fighting thing where people fight all around the city to get the last wish

and people could pay to see it

i dunno

A fighting tournament? Could it be done?

Jordan, reveal your shining nugget of genius!

Of course it could!
No holds barred!

Right here!
In the city streets!

What more publicity could you want?

Using Freemasons as referees for the contest was something I pinned from Alan Moore's 'League of Extraordinary Gentlemen' comic series, mostly because I liked the weird steampunk outfits Kevin O'Neill gave them. I'd later reuse them in the Chimbley Sweep one-shot. I didn't know shit about actual Freemasonry back then, so apologies to any actual Masons. Or maybe not; why don't y'all let any gals in?



Well, small boy, if you're so passionate, why don't you enter the contest yourself?

Then, if you win, you can wish that this whole thing never happened.

You can go back to living a dismal life in a dismal city.

Dismal?! I've lived 'ere all my life!

Sure it ain't much to look at, but it's the only 'ome I've got! Same as lots of ower blokes!

I'm not gonna burn it down an' get torn apart by maniacs, all fer some stupid wish that prob'ly ain't even real!

Shame.
It's the only chance you have.

...fine.

I'll enter yer bloody toumney.

...ON YOUR MARKS!
GET SET!

Do you like these kind of contests too?

'Cause I just love them!

Love 'em
love 'em love
'em love 'em
love 'em!

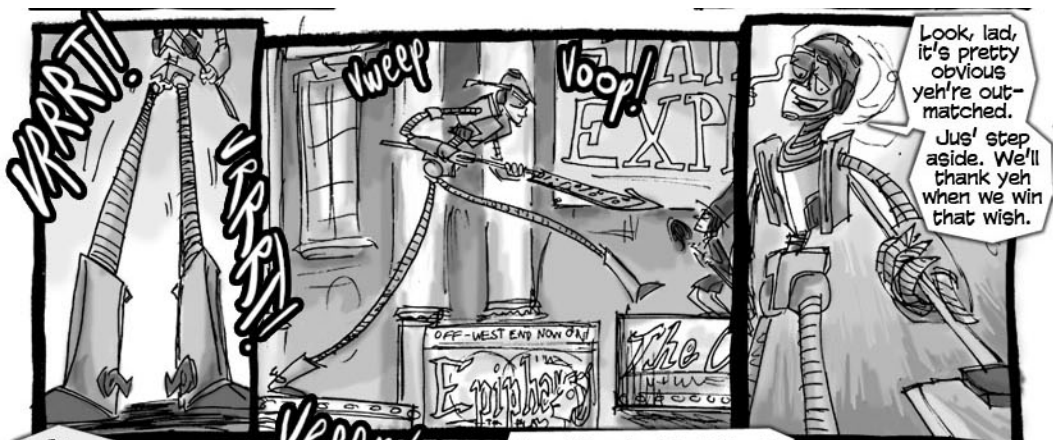
BANG.

the CHIMBLEY
SWEEP
does community service

© 2008 BY IAN JAY.
"LAW OF TALOS" CONCEPT
© 2008 BY "SINS-OF-ANGELS".
DO YOUR CIVIC DUTY AND
VISIT IANJAY.NET.

Chimbley's second 'Law of Talos' match, against DA user Zeurel's character Spoiler. To my recollection, Spoiler was a loner cyborg warrior with a dark alter ego and a sword with his brother's ghost inside-- Venom meets Edward Elric, kind of.





Er...
just outta
curiosity...



Et all started
two years ago.

Me brother and I
were in a horrific
car crash that
nearly claimed
both our lives.

VRRRT!

The clinic we were taken to
subjected our bodies to
bizarre medical procedures
by night and endless
viewings of the TV Land
network by day.

Now,
Theo...

They turned
me into a
cyborg, and
Rip into a
possessed
sword.

Fer this,
those
doctors
must die.

If'n accident
it really was.



We have ta
reconcile our
past! Don't
yeh get it?

Easy for you
t'say! You
'ave a body!

Hell, the only
reason I stayed
with you this long
was because I
needed someone
t' carry me!

What?!

Oh,
so
this.

Shut up
for a
second!

Would you
consider that
a head injury?

Er...
vaguely, I
s'pose...

Good. This kid
is startin' ta
piss me off.

tenuous
grasp!

JUMP!

Scramble

Scramble

Scramble

-Gn!

BINK!

I mean, don't take
this the wrong way,
you're a great guy...

...Oh. Oh!

Awright!
Time to
bring the
noise!

hnnnghh...

GLORP!

...SSSSMOKIN'.







the CHIMBLEY SWEEP plays his part

© 2008 BY IAN JAY.
"SPOILER/BLACK ACE"
© 2008 BY ZEUREL.
"LAW OF TALOS"
CONCEPT © 2008 BY
SINS-OF-ANGELS.
STEP INTO THE LIME-
LIGHT AT IANJAY.NET.

Chimbley's third fight, against DA user Aurn's character Joshua Bell, the so-called "Hooker From Hell". This was back when you could pass off a houseless, HIV-positive homosexual sex worker as a "joke character". Again, 2000's Deviant Art really was just *like that* back then.



Blimey, of all the rubbish luck!

Someone wrecked my 'ideout!



My food!
My supplies!

My collection of interestin' bricks!



'Ey're all ruined!



It'll take weeks of scavengin' to get this place ship-shape again.



I only 'ope my money's okay.



'At was two months worth of... ..oh.



Bloody 'ell!
They nicked all my cash!



SCRAPE, SHUFFLE

crunch
munch
crunch

I was gonna buy a pair a' shoes
'at I can't feel th' street frough...



crunch
crunch
crunch

PROCESS

-ker- notice!

Nice stick.



What're you gonna do, hun? Poke me to death?



Last kid I met dropped a building on me. This almost feels like a letdown.



OH-CLICK!

WHAM!

It's not a stick,
it's a broom.

'Oo the
blazes are
you, an'
what'd you
do wif my
money?

Who am I?
Why, I'm
Joshua Bell,
the Hooker
From Hell!

You may have
heard of me! I'm
the most pathetic
and miserable
character in this
contest.

And I'm feeling
really on the
edge right now.

Sympathize with
me or I'll blow your
fucking brains out.

Er...
easy 'ere,
guv...

AND DON'T
FUCKING
MOVE!!!

Hey, I grew up
on the streets.
"Finder's keepers"
is practically my
motto.

I needed
that dough!

...I mean, 'at's
why I set up 'is
little 'idey'-ole.

So I'd 'ave some-
place to keep fings I
didn't want stolen.

I'm
only...
ah...

...casually inquirin'
as to the where-
abouts a' my
savings, is all.

But I live on
the streets too!
See, we're gettin'
along already!

You
unnerstand,
right?

NO! SHUT UP!

YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT
IT'S LIKE TO
BE ME!!!

yipe!

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BI

-dick! dick!

Dammit!

Dammit poop
balls ass!

BANG
BANG
BANG



Listen, kid! Don't take this personally!

So you're homeless too.

So what?



I've had to fight for survival all my life!



Whatever you've been through, I've had it worse!



Oh really?

Why don'tcha try me!

Well, for starters...



...I was born with a permanent five o'clock shadow.



Everyone at school teased me so much that I dropped out in fifth grade!

Not that my parents cared, of course.



LEAP

You know my father never hugged me once?

Eventually I turned to crack to ease the emotional pain.

Plus I wanted to look cool.

skidd!



Since then I've spent most of my life either homeless or in prison.

I have to sell my body- sexually!- to feed my drug habit!

Last week I had to pretend I was Steve Buscemi for some pervert from Iowa! I mean, what the hell?!



Wot, izzat all?

I've 'ad good days 'at're worse'n 'at!

Well, I haven't told you the coup de grace of my sorry existence...



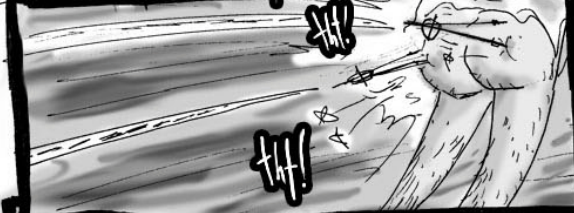
...I have AIDS.



In case it isn't obvious, I'm not proud of these jokes. They suck shit and they're from a time before I woke the fuck up to my own queer identity and to the global queer community. The fact that this is one of only a few Chimbley fight comics I had in my backup drives still mystifies me.









the CHIMBLEY SWEEP

cleans house

© 2008 BY IAN JAY.
 JOSHUA BELL © AURYN.
 "LAW OF TALOS" CONCEPT
 © SINS-OF-ANGELS.
 THERE'S A LIGHT IN THE
 ATTIC AT IANJAY.NET.

A joke "Round 4.5" comic from the year after 'Law of Talos' ended. I don't remember who most of these characters are, and also "homosexuality exists and that's gross" is a fucking lazy-ass punchline that sucks. Weird how I drew Karl, Unknown-Person's OC who I dressed up as in the Round Four video, with a slutty corset and evil tats, though. Man, I had a lot of shit I still needed to work through...



MEANWHILE.



BRIT JUST GOT REAL.

The image features the text "LAW OF TALOS" in a large, metallic, 3D font with a brushed metal texture. Below it, "ROUND 4.5" is written in a smaller, bold, black sans-serif font. The text is set against a background of a large, fiery explosion with orange and yellow flames and dark smoke.

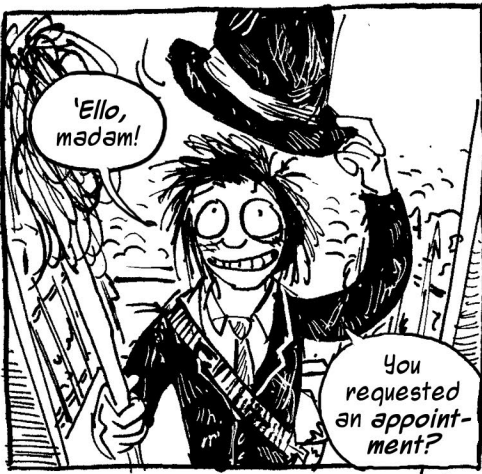
BASED ON A TRUE STORY
COMING THIS SUMMER

2010 BY
IAN JAY

Concept art from 'Law of Talos'.



Next five pages: The original five-page proof of concept for a standalone Chimbley series I did for Manga & Japanese Storytelling class at SCAD.



'Ello, madam!

You requested an appointment?



Lovely 'ouse y'got 'ere, ma'am!

It's unseemly to gawk, young man.

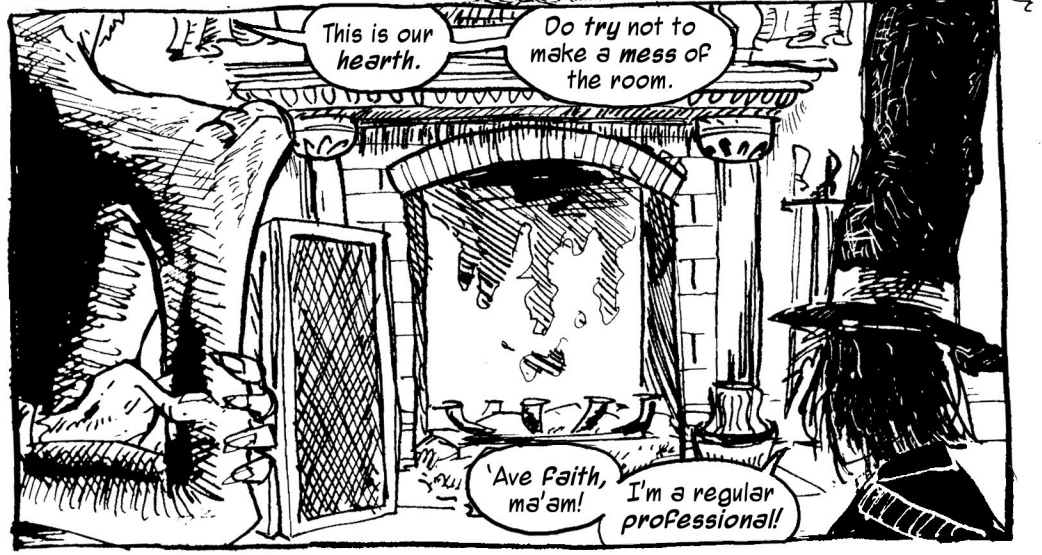
...Right. My apologies.



...Ah. Yes.

You must be the help.

Come in. And wipe your feet.



This is our hearth.

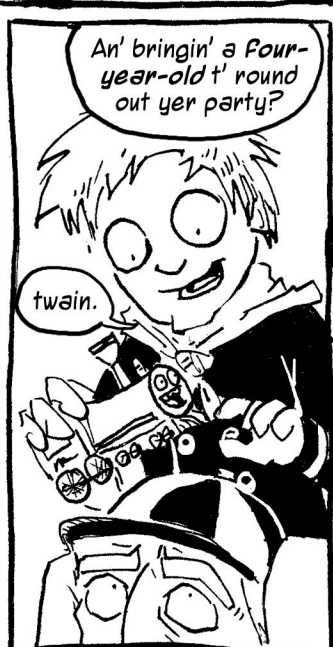
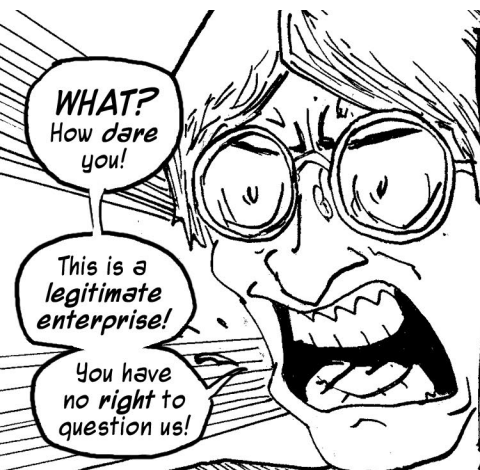
Do try not to make a mess of the room.

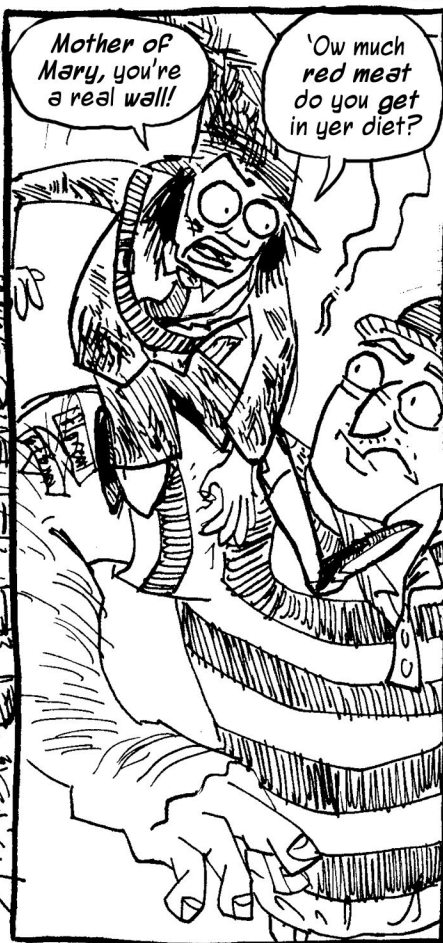
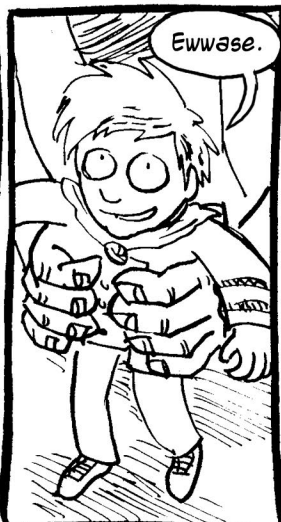
'Ave faith, ma'am!

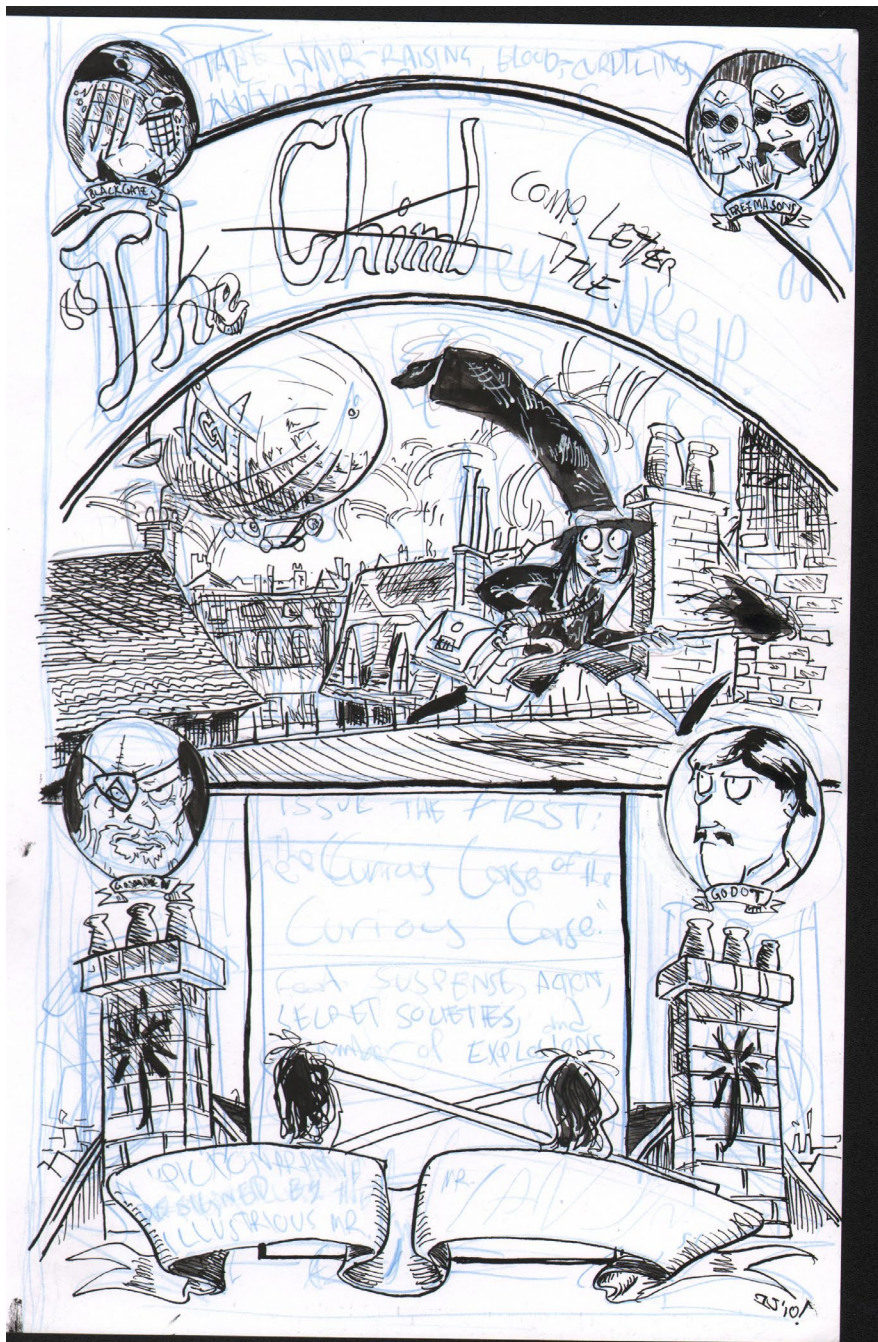
I'm a regular professional!





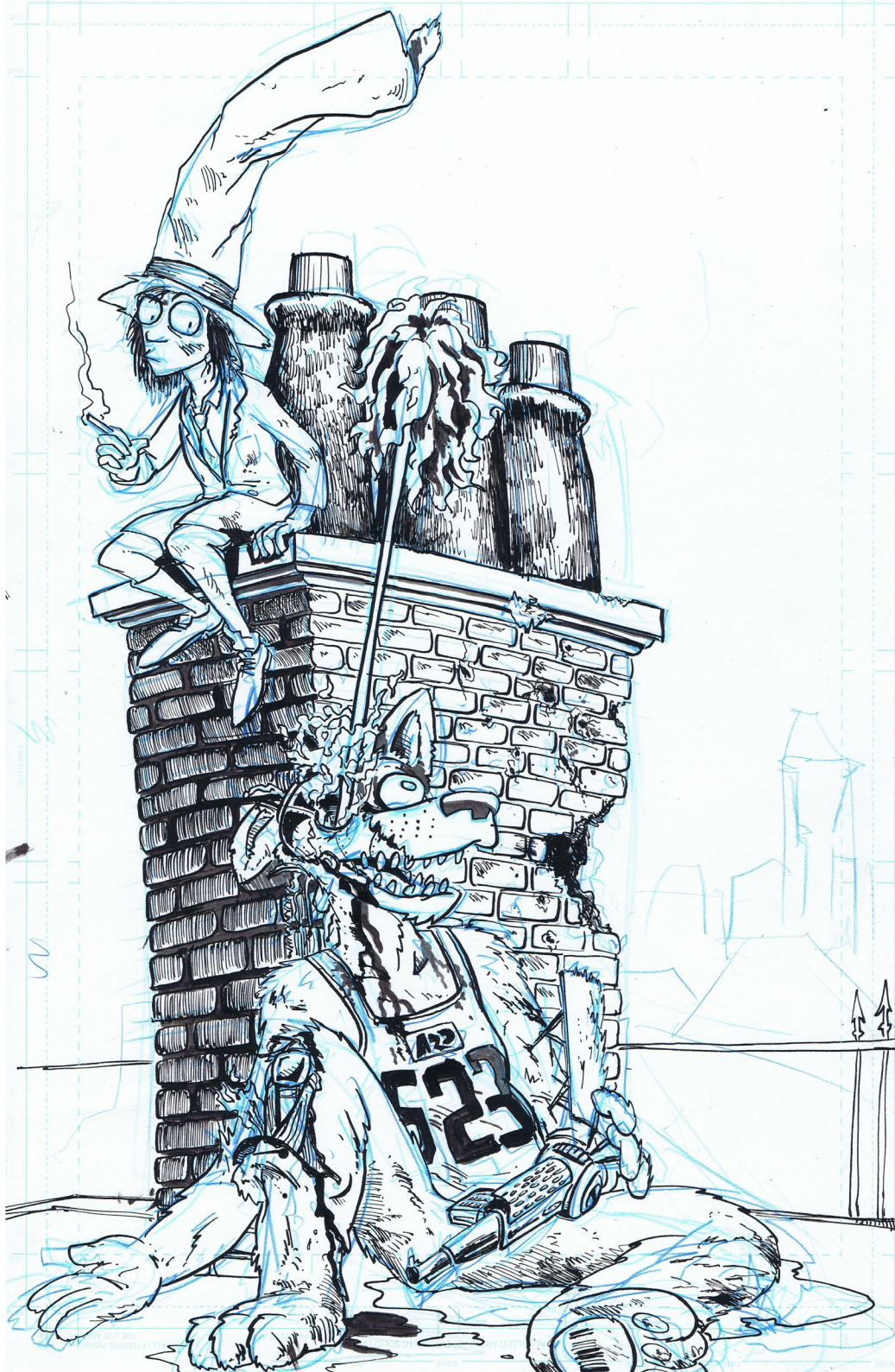


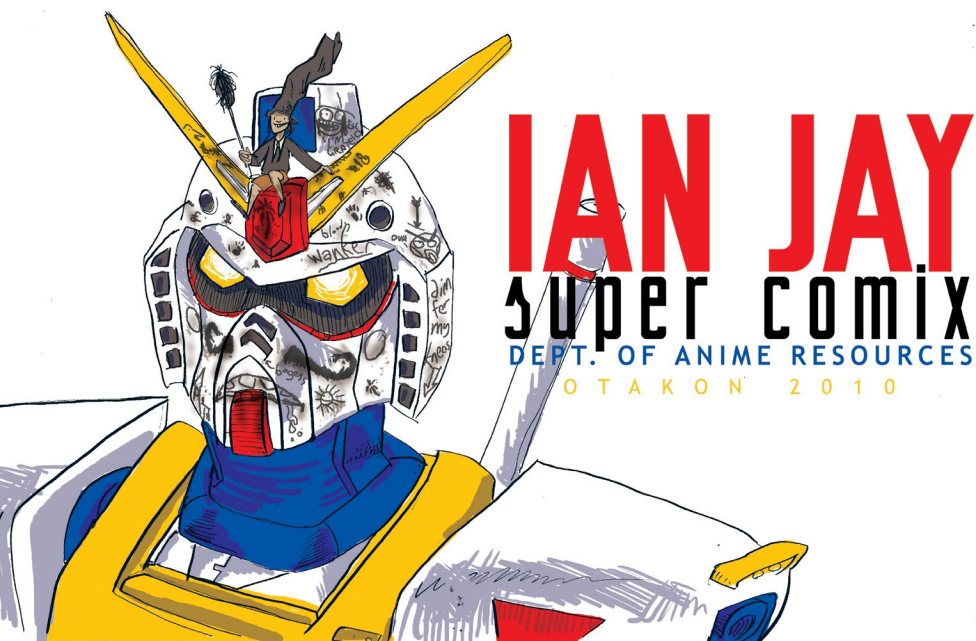




This page: Original inks for the Chimbley one-shot cover. Gotta love how I gave up on that hand-lettering halfway through!

Next page: A promo image for my 2010 convention circuit featuring Chimbley and one of my "Anthro Research Division" fursuit robots, who would eventually make a formal appearance in my short-lived series 'Megahertz'. Coming soon to a future Archive Edition!

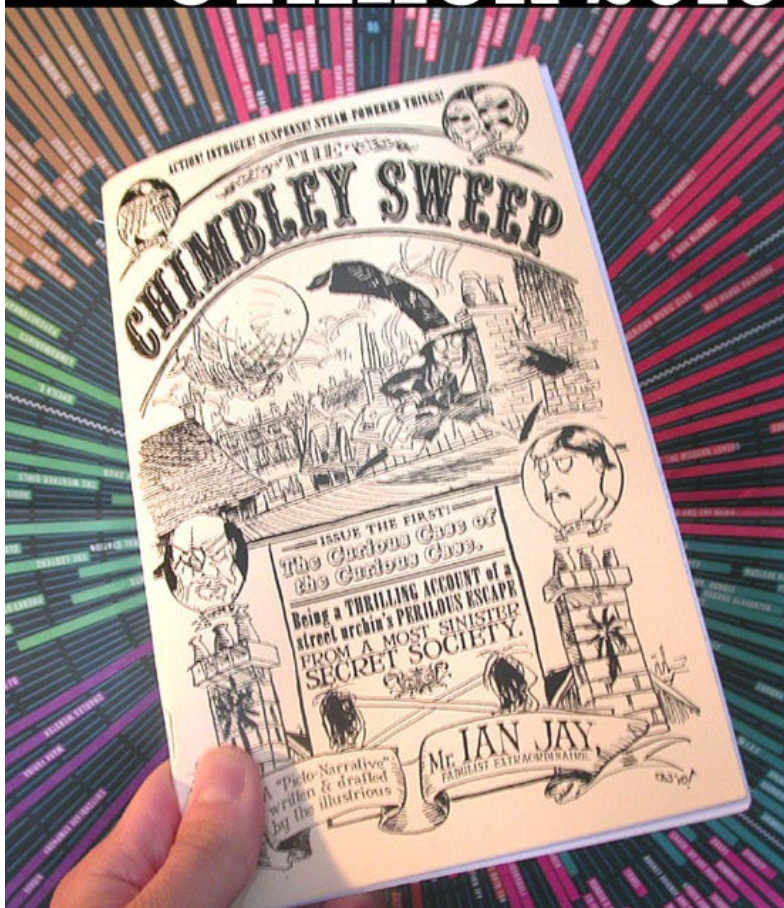




This page: A promotional poster I did for my Otakon 2010 appearance. I did *not* know how to draw the Gundam RX-78 2 back then. Also c'mon, Chimbley, don't be a shit to another estranged child with combat trauma!

Next page: A Chimbley Sweep one-shot promotional ad for social media. This was one of several minicomics I was selling at the time, also including Space Jam Man and the Lazer Wolf trilogy. Stay tuned, future Archive Editions, etc etc.

coming soon to **OTAKON 2010**



available exclusively from Ian Jay Super Comix
visit us in the Artists' Alley, table H-08

the CHIMBLEY SWEEP

A COMIC BY IAN JAY.

WHAT IS IT?

The Chimbley Sweep is a projected comic book series. Each issue will be a twenty page, self-contained “episode”, but there will be recurring plot elements.

WHAT'S IT ABOUT, IN TWENTY WORDS OR LESS?

A Victorian street urchin accidentally stumbles into a world of danger, intrigue and steam-powered junk.

WHAT ARE SOME THEMES EXPLORED IN IT?

The Chimbley Sweep is a fast-paced action-satire of the Victoriana and Steampunk sub-genres of fiction. The core message behind the series is probably something along the lines of “think for yourself.”

IS THERE AN EASY “IT’S LIKE X MEETS Y” METAPHOR TO DESCRIBE IT?”

It’s like *Great Expectations*, as directed by Chuck Jones.

WHY SHOULD THIS GET PUBLISHED?

The Victorian era has cemented itself as an easy go-to setting for writers. It’s an age of history that sparks the imagination, and that’s how it can perennially attract so many fans. *The Chimbley Sweep* can easily sell to those fans, but it’s also witty and self-aware enough that it can sell to others who aren’t as interested in airships and Freemasons as well.

Brief pitch notes for the Chimbley one-shot. Every time I worry I hitched my career’s apple wagon to the wrong “-punk”-suffixed pulp subgenre, I realize things could’ve ended up so much worse.

Left: A preliminary sketch for the Chimbley one-shot color poster.



Below: A loose sketch for a Chimbley Sweep video game. I forget if this was a joke or if I was seriously considering this. Weird!

